

*Leptospermum scoparium nichollii* (Myrtaceae), 48168. From Auckland, New Zealand. Seeds presented by Mr. H. R. Wright. A red-flowered variety of this very abundant tree or shrub, the beautiful colonial counterpart of the English broom or gorse, sometimes 30 feet in height. Early voyagers and colonists sometimes used its pungent leaves in place of tea. Indeed the whole plant, including leaves, flowers, fruit, and young shoots, is highly aromatic, and the oil which it contains will perhaps, in the future, be put to some useful purpose. The Maoris made their paddles and spears from the wood which is largely used for fences and firewood. A bunch of the twigs makes an excellent broom. (Adapted from Laing and Blackwell, Plants of New Zealand, p. 272.)

*Metrosideros tomentosa* (Myrtaceae), 48151. From Bay of Plenty, New Zealand. Seeds presented by Mr. Charles G. Hallet. "Seeds of a very ornamental tree, of a spreading nature, which grows along our northern coasts. In midsummer, it is covered with crimson flowers which secrete large quantities of light-colored, mild-flavored nectar. The tree makes a good windbreak, withstanding gales and salt spray splendidly; the crooked limbs are much used for knees and cleats in boat-building. The tree is probably as sensitive to frost as the fig or the lemon. Collected at Napier." (Hallet.)

*Pistacia atlantica* (Anacardiaceae), 48163. From Tripoli, Libya. Seeds presented by Dr. E. O. Fenzi, director, Stabilimento Orticolo Libico. A tree, native to northwestern Algeria, 30 to 50 feet in height, with many woody branches in a dense head. The blue drupe is somewhat fleshy and about the size of a pea. The tree is frequently found in sandy uncultivated fields not far from the city of Cafsa, and seems to have been cultivated at one time by the inhabitants. A resinous gum flows from the bark of the trunk and branches at various times of the year but especially in summer, and when hard is pale yellow color. It has a pleasant aromatic odor and taste, scarcely distinguishable from the oriental mastic gum, and called by the same name, Heulc, by the Moors. It thickens in plates covering the branches, or in irregular masses differing in thickness and shape, often the size of a finger. Some of these become detached from the tree and are scattered on the ground. The Arabs collect this substance in autumn and winter and chew it to whiten the teeth and sweeten the breath. (Adapted from Desfontaines, Flora Atlantica, vol. 2, p. 364.)